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in the Present" without admiring his keen appreciation of what is fundamental among French-Canadian racial traits as well as the rare breadth of his social and religious sympathies. Dr. Douglas has proved himself to be more than a busy man of affairs who writes history as the hobby of leisure hours. Many pages of the book are put together with the skill of a professional.

In those chapters which deal more particularly with the history and institutions of New England, however, the author is not so much at home. The pitfall of using a partizan work as gospel is one into which he drops with unfortunate frequency. Take the discussion of the Gorton episode (pp. 217-221) as an example. What could be more unfair to this doughty heretic than to settle his fate before posterity on the sole basis of what can be found in the writings of Winthrop and Hutchinson? At the same time the reader will encounter, even in these chapters, much that is interesting and much that gives the fruit of mature reflection.

In its general mechanism the volume is a fine example of American bookmaking. Typography and binding alike leave nothing to be desired.

WILLIAM BENNETT MUNRO.

Chicago and the Old Northwest, 1673-1835: a Study of the Evolution of the Northwestern Frontier, together with a History of Fort Dearborn. By MILO MILTON QUAIFFE, Ph.D., Professor of History, Lewis Institute of Technology. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1913. Pp. 480.)

IN fifteen chapters, fortified and supplemented by nine appendixes which occupy about one-third of the volume of 480 pages, Mr. Milo M. Quaife, recently chosen to succeed Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites as superintendent of the Wisconsin Historical Society, has told the story of the Fort Dearborn massacre, and of the beginnings of Chicago. His study of the evolution of the Northwestern frontier is merely incidental to the development of this main theme, and is not comparable to it in importance and thoroughness. In the lesser field he has made an analytical as well as an exhaustive survey of available materials, and has reached conclusions which are at variance with those of earlier writers and chroniclers, but which are presented with circumstantial clearness and force. Uninfluenced by accepted statements whose authority seemed based on undisputed repetition, and entirely unconcerned about keeping unimpaired family traditions founded on events of a hundred years ago, Mr. Quaife has broken new ground and reconstructed the narrative of Fort Dearborn with skill and certitude. In controversial matters, he shows independence of judgment, and sureness in his use of documentary material needful to give authority to his views. Especially is this fact evident in dealing with the history of the Chicago portage. Here the author makes a distinct and valuable contribution to an important feature of Northwestern history, growing out of his researches in connection

with the long-contested litigation, still pending, instituted by the federal government against the Economy Light and Power Company. For a century and a half, fur-traders used the Chicago portage between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River *via* the Illinois, and as Mr. Quaife says, "the comparatively undeveloped state of the field of American historical research is well illustrated by the fact that despite the historical importance of the Chicago Portage, no careful study of it has ever been made. The student will seek in vain for even an adequate description of the physical characteristics of the portage." The contradictory impressions derivable from early narratives of travellers as to the ease of water communication between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River were no doubt due to the seasonal differences of conditions. The evidence taken in the case noted above, which has been printed in four massive volumes, constitutes the most exhaustive study of the character and historical use of the Chicago Portage that has ever been made—a subject of dispute initiated by La Salle when, in 1678, he traversed the Chicago-Des Plaines route on his journey towards the Mississippi.

From the inconclusive testimony of the picturesque procession of travellers who penetrated to, and sometimes beyond, the Illinois country—including La Salle and Tonty, Joliet and Marquette, their French predecessors known as "LaTaupine and the surgeon", and the later comers including Father Claude Allouez, Joutel's party, and Charlevoix, the author ventures the opinion that no fort existed at Chicago during the seventeenth century, and that surmise as to the existence of one had its origin in the misconceptions of cartographers in interpreting the narratives of explorers. As to the erroneous belief in the existence of a French fort in the eighteenth century, that wielder of the long bow, Father Louis Hennepin, is made to bear the blame. Upon his unsupported testimony James Logan founded his report to Governor Keith in 1718, and by the transference of this error thence to Popple's "Map of the British Empire in America", 1732, the blundering belief of its existence was perpetuated.

Coming down to the beginning of the last century, after devoting a chapter to the Fox Wars, another to Chicago in the Revolution, and a third to the Fight for the Northwest, the most interesting part of the present history is reached. Tracing the events which deal with the founding of Fort Dearborn, its nine years of garrison life, and the outbreak and progress of the Indian war whose tragic consequences included the massacre of its ill-fated company, Mr. Quaife furnishes a narrative which is readable, convincing as to disputed points, and which gives evidence of sound scholarship in its use of source materials. The validity of certain treasured traditions is ruthlessly destroyed, the good name of a brave commander is restored after a century of obloquy had attached to it, and myth is dissociated from credible history in a keen analysis of documentary evidence given in *extenso* in appendixes. This material is of primary importance in extricating the history of Fort

Dearborn from the hundred years of accumulated errors which had their origin in the misstatements of a disgruntled subordinate officer, and the romantic imagination of a writer whose relationship to some of the participants rendered her narrative as valueless in the matter of verity as it is charming in literary value.

The curious fortunes which have attended many manuscripts of historic value worthily include the Fort Dearborn manuscripts within their range. As Mr. Quaife narrates the story, one of the most important of them, a document of several hundred pages, disappeared, apparently for all time, from the home of the Heald family a half-century ago. Another, Lieutenant Helm's massacre narrative, after being lost to sight for three-quarters of a century, was discovered a few years since in the Detroit Public Library. A third, the fatal order of Hull to Captain Heald for the evacuation of the fort, long supposed to have been destroyed, has been for over forty years, unknown to historical workers, a part of the Draper Collection, now the property of the Wisconsin State Historical Society. Still other documents gathered with loving care within the walls of the local historical society by citizens of Chicago, by reason of this fact were doomed to perish in one or other of the fires which have twice consumed the society's archives. Such was the fate of the papers of Lieutenant Swearingen, destroyed in the great fire of 1871, a few years after he had presented them to the society. Such was the fate, also, of John Kinzie's account-books with their unique picture of early Chicago in the years from 1804 to 1824.

Fortunately in both these instances a remnant of the original has been preserved to us through the very fact of its retention in private hands. Swearingen retained part of his private papers, and some of these, including the original journal of the march of the troops from Detroit to Chicago in 1803 to establish the first Fort Dearborn, are still in the possession of his descendants. Of Kinzie's account-books a transcript of the names together with some additional data is all that remains. Its preservation is due to the fortunate circumstance that ten years before the Chicago fire the list was copied for the use of an historical worker, who carried it with him when he left Chicago to enter the Union army. More than forty years later, on the occasion of the centennial of the founding of Fort Dearborn, the original books having been destroyed, it was returned to the historical society.

National Supremacy: Treaty Power vs. State Power. By EDWARD S. CORWIN, of the Department of History and Politics, Princeton University. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1913. Pp. viii, 321.)

THIS can hardly be deemed an historical work. The first office of the historian is to make a candid examination of his material for the purpose of ascertaining what is its true content and meaning. Professor Corwin has examined his material with considerable care, but always for